Children as bonded labour in beedi industry in Tamil Nadu

3183. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 35,000 children of either sex between five to seven years age are mortgaged with Beedi Industrialists by their parents at Dr. Ambedkar District in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for payment of few thousands of rupees the life of these children are crippled and they are tied by to these Beedi Industrialists from the tender years;

(c) whether Government are aware that these children have to work till late at night after finishing the norms fixed by the Beedi kings;

(d) whether Government are aware to the children are paid 1/4 of actual wage and are fed very meagerly during lunch hours;

(e) what steps Government intend to take to punish the guilty Beedi lords for the patent violation of factory laws, Labour Acts etc; and

(f) whether any compensation will be given to these children for the past cruelties by the Beedi Kings?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected from the State Government of Tamil Nadu and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Indian workers in foreign countries

3184. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) total number of Indians, who are working outside the country as on date; and

(b) how many of them are working in (1) Gulf and Middle East, (2) South East Asia, (3) Europe and (4) U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Enforcement machinery for the implementation of laws relating to the child labour

3185. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States and Union Territories where the Enforcement machinery are functioning in respect of child related provisions of the laws; and

(b) how many employers have been prosecuted for the violation of the child-related provisions of the law during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) All the States/Union Territories have enforcement machinery to enforce child related provision of the laws

(b) In 1993-94, 1632 prosecutions have been launched under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, and the Factories Act, 1948. Figures for 1994-95 are as yet not fully available.

Meeting of the wage Board for Journalists and non-journalists

3186. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether first meeting of newly constituted Wage Board for journalists and non-jounrnalists was held in first week of April, 1995;